

TISSUE SURFACE TREATMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD

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5 Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/797,409 entitled, "Tissue Surface Treatment Apparatus And Method", filed February 28, 2001 ^(now abandoned) which is fully incorporated by reference herein.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to an apparatus and method for the minimally invasive treatment and ablation of tissue masses such as tumors, and more particularly to a tissue surface treatment apparatus with independently deployable electrodes configured to controllably ablate a tumor proximate or beneath a tissue surface.

Description of the Related Art

Standard surgical procedure, such as resection, for treating benign and malignant tumors of the liver and other organs have several key shortcomings affecting efficacy, morbidity and mortality. In an effort to fully remove or resect the tumor, the surgeon may be forced to remove or injure healthy tissue, compromising the function of the target organ. Further, the surgeon must exercise care in not cutting the tumor in a manner that creates seeding of the tumor, resulting in metastasis and spread of the